

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. Canceled

21. (Currently amended) A dosage form for topical treatment of a bacterial, viral or fungal infection in a patient in need thereof, said dosage form comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable acidifying agent consisting of an organic acid and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said organic acid in an amount sufficient to establish a pH at an environment of use below 4, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable source of nitrite ions, in an amount effective when combined with said organic acidifying agent to treat said infection,

wherein said acidifying agent and said source of nitrite ions are disposed separately in respective pharmaceutically acceptable carriers for admixture at the intended environment of use and being effective to release NO or NO<sub>2</sub> at the environment of use and wherein said dosage form is in the form of a paint, a varnish, an ointment, a wax, a salve, a cream, or is impregnated in a film or a gauze.

22. (Previously presented) The dosage form of claim 21, wherein said organic acid is selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, ascorbyl palmitate, salicylic acid, lactic acid, citric acid, formic acid, benzoic acid and tartaric acid.

23. (Previously presented) The dosage form of claim 22, wherein said organic acid is salicylic acid or ascorbic acid.

24. (Previously presented) The dosage form of claim 22, wherein said organic acid is present in the first component at a concentration from 0.5% to 30% by weight for ascorbic acid, ascorbyl palmitate, salicylic acid, lactic acid, formic acid, benzoic acid and tartaric acid or from 0.5% to 45% by weight for citric acid or salicylic acid.
25. (Currently amended) The dosage form of claim 21, wherein said ~~metal-alkali nitrite~~ pharmaceutically acceptable source of nitrite ions is sodium nitrite.
26. (Previously presented) The dosage form of claim 24, wherein said sodium nitrite is present in the second component at a concentration from 0.5 to 30% by weight.
27. (Currently amended) The dosage form of claim 21 wherein said organic acid is selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid at a concentration of from 1 to 10% by weight of ascorbic acid, ascorbyl palmitate at a concentration from 3 to 25% by weight of ~~ascorbyl palmitate~~, salicylic acid at a concentration from 0.5 to 44 % by weight, and citric acid at a concentration up to 45% by weight.